GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:270
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2017
Wildlife Preservation
Basheer Shri E. T. Mohammed

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government recognises the important role played by local community in the preservation of wildlife in the country and if so, the details thereof;
(b) the steps taken to involve local community more rigorously; and
(c) the details of the activities undertaken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE)

(a), (b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b) AND (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. *270 REGARDING "WILDLIFE PRESERVATION" RAISED BY SHRI E.T. MOHAMMED BASHEER DUE FOR REPLY ON 21.03.2017.

(a) The Government recognises the important role played by local community in the preservation of wildlife in the country. Peoples' participation has been given importance through various provisions under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 as well as National Wildlife Action Plan, 2002-2016. Important provisions under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which recognise peoples' participation for wildlife conservation include, inter alia, designation of Honorary Wildlife Warden, nomination of people representatives as member of National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) and Standing Committee of NBWL, notification of Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves and constitution of Management Committee with members from local community for the Conservation Reserve and Community Reserve.

(b) & (c) Local communities are involved in the conservation of wildlife and its habitats by the concerned state and UT Governments as the protection and conservation of wildlife is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Governments. The State Governments have declared 67 Conservation Reserves and 26 Community Reserves in the country. The list is at Annexure. Eco-development activity is an intrinsic component of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes viz. 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' through which the local communities are involved in preservation of the wildlife and its habitats in the country. Under this component, the village Eco-Development Committees and Joint Forest Management Committees are constituted to promote participatory management embodying the agenda of co-existence in Protected Areas, buffer/ fringe areas. By supporting various micro-plan activities under these Centrally Sponsored Schemes, dependency of local people on forest resources has been reduced and livelihood of the local people has been improved. The activities taken up under this include provision of safe drinking water, solar light, solar cookers, supporting alternate livelihood practices, apiculture, sericulture and pisciculture, piggery, poultry, setting up of Self Help Group, promoting community based eco tourism programmes, interactive field visits, study tours for villages and staff involved in eco development programmes, seminars, workshop etc.

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